

**A Brief History of Libraries
at Assumption College, Assumption University, and the University of Windsor
(1870s to 1980)**

By Katharine Ball: Updated April 14, 2025



Assumption College 1920

Source: SWODA Images 907

Right to Left: original building 1856-1965; east-west wing 1876-1984; north-south wing completed 1884; chapel completed 1908

When the main east-west wing of Assumption College was completed in 1876, space was freed up in the original Assumption College building of 1856. A library, probably the first, was established on its ground floor (*Echoes*, v. 7, p. 83). However, because the College was so poor, the library actually contained no books and the space was described as bleak and empty. “The only reading possible was that of the weekly papers the boys received from home. True, there were two long tables with benches on each side of them for the convenience of readers or such as wished to play a game of checkers, dominoes or chess” (*Echoes*, v. 7, p. 56). All boisterous conduct, cards, chewing tobacco, and smoking were prohibited (*Echoes*, v. 7, p. 43 and p. 56). The library was also used by college groups. For example, the Glee Club, under Father Coté, was practising in the Library in Autumn 1889.

In 1890, a new library was set up in a large room off the main corridor of the north-south oriented wing of Assumption College (completed 1884). “The College authorities thought that something should be done towards affording the student body with some opportunity for extraneous reading of a Catholic kind, together with some of the classical English authors. Several of the priests, who had libraries of their own, contributed. A hundred volumes or a little more were presented, and the library of Assumption was inaugurated with great gusto” (*Echoes*, v. 7, p. 56-57). Over the next 25 years, it seems that the library moved 2 more times within the same wing, mainly to accommodate the growing number of students. The last room was “fitted up with reading tables, chairs, settees, and there were curtains on the windows. Weekly periodicals as well as the daily papers were added” (*Echoes*, v. 7, p. 58). During this same period, fees were instituted to support the library. In 1901, they amounted to \$1.50 per student, per year (ACC, 1901, p. 24). Library collections were used to support learning in a number of courses. For example, in high school English literature there was “mandatory private reading of at least 4 classics...books to be found in the students’ library” (ACC, 1910, p. 39). In 1903, the Alumni Association was founded at an informal meeting in the “old students’ library” (Golden Jubilee, p. 113).



St. Michael's Hall – Assumption College, South Campus

Source: SWODA Images 1427

ca. 1925; original 1856 building on the left; attached to the east-west wing; then St. Michael's Hall (completed 1915); then St. Denis Hall (completed 1915).



St. Michael's Hall 1920

Source: SWODA Images 909

The library was located on the first floor in the southwest end (left side).

A Gang on the Library Steps 1928

Source: SWODA Images 3696

In 1915, St. Michael's Hall was completed, and the library was re-located to the southwest end of its first floor. It was apparently very comfortable, and well furnished, with a good selection of fiction, and even fines for overdue materials. It appears that this library was still only opened sporadically. It was also the meeting place for college organizations such as the Foreign Missions Society and St. Paul's Dramatic Society. As well, it was the location of student debates (WAC, 1921-1922: numerous references). Annual library fees were supplemented by cash and book donations from alumni. At this time, the library also relied on what were called "Curators of the Library". These were essentially student monitors who performed a variety of library tasks and helped to keep the place in order (ACC, 1916-1928: numerous references).

In Autumn 1927, the Dillon Hall building was officially completed. It was originally called the Classroom Building or the Arts Building. It was not until 1957 that it was renamed in honour of the Basilian priest, Daniel Dillon, president of Assumption College from 1922-1928 and 1931-1932. It contained classrooms and labs as well as a brand new library. It took a while to install the fittings and move the collections, and it seems that this new library did not open until the Summer of 1928. It was located on the second floor, at the northwest end of the building, and there was space for 7,000 volumes. A Mrs. M. Tierman donated an expensive mahogany table that was placed in the reference area (P&W, 1929, Dec. 1, p. 3). About 1940, it expanded into another adjoining room, north of the original library, and likely occupied the entire northwest wing. This library was intended primarily for college level students.



Dillon Hall, ca. 1945

Source: SWODA Images 1105

Dillon Hall was completed in 1927. The library was originally located on the second floor, northwest end.



Dillon Hall Library, 1930

Source: SWODA Images 895



Library staff, 1952

Source: SWODA Images 3641

Right: G. Jubenville, Librarian

The opening of this new College library marked the beginning of a major upgrade in both the collections and services offered to students. The management of the library became a more professional endeavour. There was a “trained” full-time librarian and two part-time assistant librarians. The library could now have regular opening hours. From 1932-1935, the library received a grant from the Carnegie Foundation which allowed for the purchase of many additional resources and some real collection development, reflecting the needs of faculty and students alike. During the same period, outdated materials were also weeded (AR, 1934, p. 7). “From 3,500 volumes in 1932, the collection [increased] to the present [1942] 10,000 volumes, exclusive of pamphlets, periodicals, and government publications. During the same period regularly received magazines and periodicals in the fields of philosophy, religion, economics, science, art, literature, history, and current events increased from 25 to 52” (ACC, 1942, p. 10). By 1946, there were 16,000 volumes and 100 periodical subscriptions.



Students studying in the Dillon Hall library, 1928-1958

Source: SWODA Images 935, 937, 1627, 3639, and 3698

Starting in late 1929, the library staff began using Library of Congress descriptive cataloguing and the Dewey Decimal classification scheme for the organization of new acquisitions. The retrospective conversion of the entire collection would take a couple of years (P&W, 1929, Dec. 1, p. 3). During the Summer of 1953, the decision was made to also convert the collection from the Dewey classification scheme to Library of Congress call numbers. This process took over 5 years (Annual report / Assumption College and Assumption University, 1953/1954 – 1959/1960).

Another significant development at this time was the growing emphasis on information literacy. Starting in the late 1920s and continuing until Fall 1974, a library science course was mandatory for all first year College students. It was 1 hour per week and, in earlier years, worth half a credit. The course was initially entitled: The Use of Books and Libraries, and the content included “lectures and exercises on the use and arrangement of the card catalogue, standard reference books, bibliography, periodicals and periodical indexes” (ACC, 1942, p. 62). The exercises were indeed very hands-on, with students actually processing new books for the College library (ACQR, 1942, p. 4). The textbook used was Library Science for Canadians by Campbell and Weller. From 1943-1946, Assumption College even offered a Bachelor of Science Degree in Medical Record Library Science (ACC, 1943, p. 47). By 1971, all the lectures were delivered through a series of videotapes (Annual report / University of Windsor, 1971/1972, p. 118). It had become impossible for reference staff to deliver an in-person 8-week course of lectures with a final exam to roughly 2,000 new students each year (Annual report / University of Windsor, 1970/1971, p. 148). From Fall 1974 on, when “library orientation” became optional, a strong program was still offered.

The library continued to act as a meeting place for college organizations and for other social gatherings. In the 1950s, for example, there was a weekly library hour “with its musical and dramatic recordings and the pleasant social discussion that follow[ed]” (ACC, 1953, p. 21).

As well as the new College Library, a new high school library was opened in Autumn 1929 (P&W, 1929, Dec. 1, p. 3). The library was located in the east part of the 1875 east-west oriented wing in what was once the senior study hall. The high school library was only half of the old study hall, likely the south side. The other half was turned into a drafting room. It did not change much until the Summer of 1944 when it was cleaned, painted, and re-organized. By October 1944, there were about 2,500 volumes (AHSR, 1944, Oct. 5, p. 4).

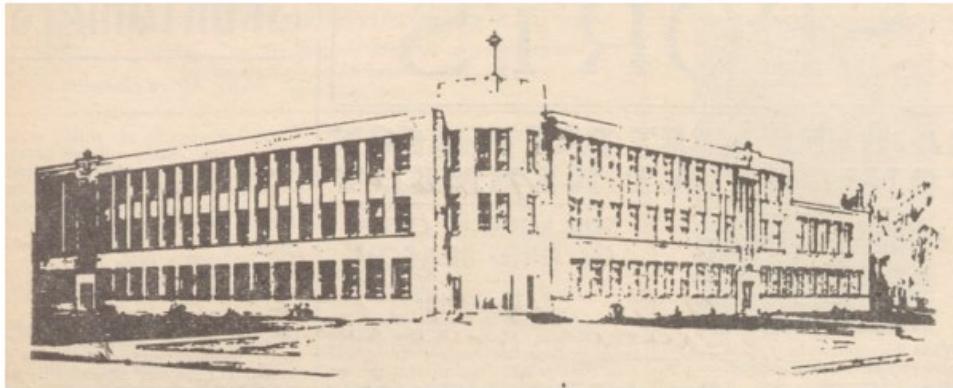


Assumption College High School Library 1929-1948

Source: SWODA Images 3634 and 3635

East part of the east-west oriented building, likely the south side

After World War II, there was a dramatic increase in the number of students at all levels and Assumption College was bursting at the seams. The plan at this point was to turn Dillon Hall into the high school building. A proposed new building (AHSR, 1946, Oct. 4, p. 4), with a library of some 50,000 volumes, would become the college building. Memorial Hall, finished in 1948, is a pared down version of this proposed building, and never contained a library.



Assumption's Proposed New Building 1946

Source: SWODA Images 3601

The plans for this building called for a new library. The current Memorial Hall is likely a pared down version of this proposed building.

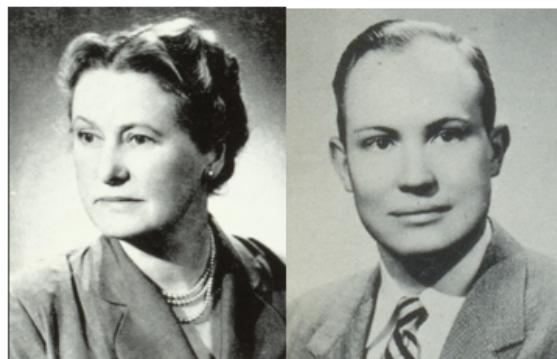
In the Summer of 1948, a decision was made to move the high school library into the college library space in Dillon Hall (AHSR, 1948, Oct. 8, p. 1). The college library moved across the hall to the northeast wing of the 2nd floor of Dillon Hall. The reasons behind this decision are not entirely clear. The new college library was only slightly larger. It could accommodate 17,000 volumes in the stacks and seat 84 students. The natural lighting was better, as it faced east (AY, 1949, p. 73).

By 1954, The college library expanded once again and took over the northeast wing of the 1st floor (3 extra rooms and an enclosed hallway). This was in addition to the 2nd floor space of Dillon Hall and more than doubled the size of the Library (Annual report / Assumption College, 1954/1955, p. 19 and ACC 1953/1954, p. 20). In 1954, it became a selective depository library for Canadian federal government documents. This would have significantly increased the size of the collection. Multimedia materials became more important. There was an investment in theses and newspaper microfilm, filmstrips, and audio records, along with the necessary equipment to use them (P&W, 1954, Sept. 27, p. 4). In addition, the library became the repository of 2 copies of each completed Assumption thesis (ACC, 1953, p. 60).

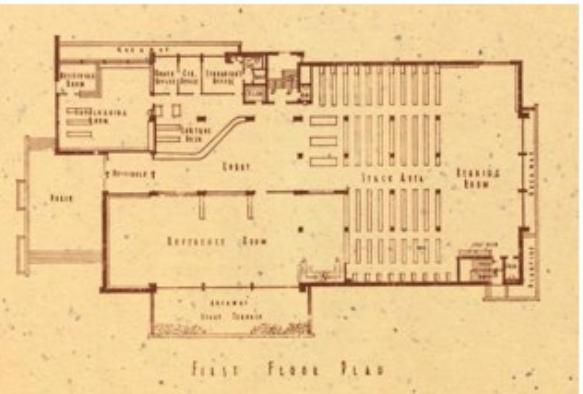
On July 1, 1953, Assumption College ended its affiliation with Western University and was granted its own charter as a university. In 1956, it then changed its name to Assumption University. This change in status obliged President LeBel to reorganize the college's administrative and academic structure. Programs were greatly enhanced and modernized, and public funding was accepted for the first time.

One of the new University's first plans included the building of Assumption High School on Huron Church Road. The high school students and their library moved off the main campus in the mid-1950s. The college library took back the northwest wing, 2nd floor, Dillon Hall. It now occupied three separate areas of Dillon Hall. Nevertheless, it was still overflowing with materials, crowded with students, and obviously inadequate for the new University.

In November 1956, a fundraising appeal for a long-range building program officially got underway. The appeal for \$1,250,000 was intended to help cover the costs of a new heating plant, a student centre, and a new library (WDS, 1956, Nov. 2, p. 3). The university administration recognized that "separate and expanded library facilities" were urgently needed (P&W, 1956, Nov. 20, p. 1). Mrs. Eleanor Barteaux Haddow, the University Librarian, and an advisory committee visited 26 libraries throughout North America to gain inspiration and insight for the new university library. In a lengthy article in the Purple and White, Mr. William Dollar, the assistant librarian, outlined their vision for the library, and described in detail the requirements for the building. It was to be the heart of the university, centrally located, modular and flexible in layout, have large well-ventilated reading rooms with good natural light. It was to be functional and "non-monumental". "Simplicity, comfort, economy, ease of operation and maintenance should be the basic characteristics. In general, the library building should be handsome, friendly, comfortable, an efficient but unobtrusive machine for library service" (P&W, 1956, Nov. 20, p. 1 and p. 6). The architects, James Carlisle Pennington and William J. Carter, were engaged to draw up plans, and Woodall Construction Company was chosen as the main construction contractor. The library was officially erected by the non-denominational Essex College, with a grant from the Ontario government. The initial estimated cost was \$750,000 (P&W, 1956, Mar. 9, p. 1). The final cost for the building was just over \$1,000,000 (WDS, 1957, July 4, p. 5), with several hundred thousand dollars more needed to fit it out.



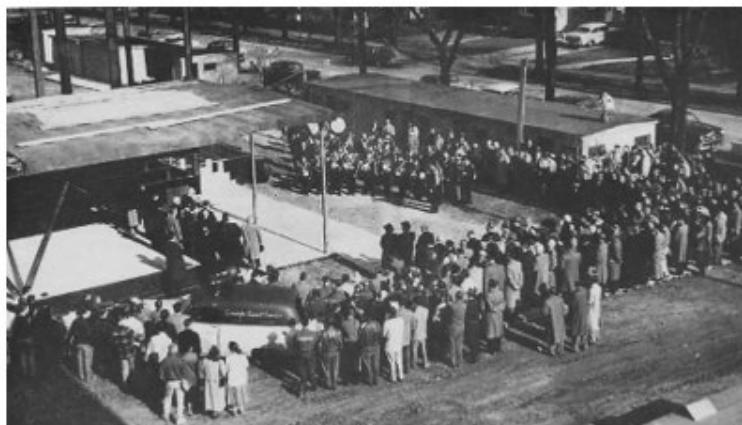
Mrs. Eleanor Barteaux Haddow: College/University Librarian from 1953-1959; Mr. William Franklin Dollar: University Librarian from 1959-1979
Source: SWODA Images 3841 and 3842



Drawings and plans for the new University library 1957

Source: SWODA Images 941 and 3855

The new Library was sited on Patricia Road, just north of Memorial Hall. The cornerstone was laid in a ceremony on November 6, 1957 (AY, 1958) and the building opened July 1, 1958 (WDS, 1958, July 7, p. 5). There were several open house events to allow University staff and the general public to visit, and the library was then officially inaugurated on September 11, 1958. This corresponded with the University graduation ceremonies. University President and Vice Chancellor E. C. LeBel and Sir Philip Robert Morris, Vice Chancellor of the University of Bristol, U.K. were the main presiding officials. Sir Morris had received an honorary doctorate and had given the convocation address earlier in the day. Accompanied by trumpet fanfare, they opened the door to the new library with a golden key (WDS, 1958, Sept. 12, p. 6).



Laying the corner stone for the new University library, November 6, 1957

Source: SWODA Images 3776 and 3743



The new Assumption University library under construction 1957-1958

Source: SWODA Images 3744 and 3858

The library with a seating capacity of 500 was generally well received by students. They appreciated the increase in space, both for individual and group study, and also for collections. The building held 60,000 volumes but was designed to eventually accommodate 350,000 volumes in open stacks. They liked features such as air-conditioning. They appreciated the introduction of photocopying services (Annual report / Assumption University, 1959/1960, p. 78). However, they did have a few suggestions for improvements: vending machines for soft drinks, coffee, and cigarettes; as well, longer hours to accommodate the increasing number of students and increasing library use (P&W, 1958, Nov. 6, p. 2).



The exterior of the new University library, 1960; Entrance/circulation desk, looking south, 1958

Source: SWODA Images 830 and 1642



Reference reading room, first floor, looking north, 1959; Entrance looking north, 1958

Source: SWODA Images 3705 and 1609

The reference reading room is still visible today. The entrance area is not. The second floor was expanded over the lobby in 1971, and offices and the curriculum resource centre now occupy the entire southwest portion of the first floor.

The increased use was demonstrated by the book circulation statistics. For the year 1958/1959, a total of 23,695 open shelf books were circulated, almost double the number for the previous year (12,666) (Annual report / Assumption University, 1958/1959, p. 67). A corollary to the increasing library use, was the increase in theft of materials. For the school year 1961-1962, the estimated losses were \$21,000. This led to the hiring of a full-time guard at the beginning of the 1962-1963 school year (Lance, 1962, Oct. 5, p. 1).

One of the “outstanding” features of the new library was the audiovisual/lecture room on the 3rd floor (currently the two rooms numbered 305 and the corridor). It could seat 200 and housed modern audio-visual equipment. This is where the mandatory Library Science lectures were held. The library could also offer a series of film screenings twice a week, mainly films from the National Film Board (P&W, 1959, Jan. 15, p. 4).

During the year 1963/1964, William Dollar, now University Librarian, oversaw a \$90,000 university library reorganization and improvement program. Previously, the ground and third floors had not been used exclusively for library purposes, but at this point, the space was taken back. The library became split entirely along faculty lines. “Under the completed system, the humanities and social sciences [were] on the ground and first floors and the pure and applied sciences on the second and third floors. Each divisional section [was] constructed and organized on the same pattern and each [possessed] its own staff, study areas, stacks and reading rooms.” New furniture and bookshelves were purchased and additional staff were hired (Annual report /University of Windsor, 1963/1964, p. 92; Lance, 1963, Sept. 20, p. 4 ; Lance, 1963, June 22, p. 3).

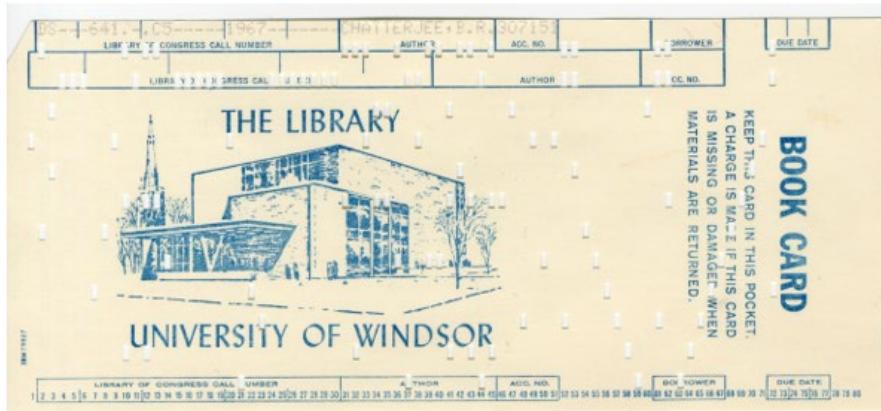


Top: Library staff at the circulation desk 1965; left: library staff lounge 1959; right: faculty lounge 1959
Source: SWODA Images 3753, 3881, 3882



1958-1959; top left: audio-visual room 3rd floor; top right: students studying on 3rd floor; bottom left: basement study area; bottom right: basement smoking area and typing room
Source: SWODA Images 3873, 3777, 3876, 3880

There were several innovations that occurred during the mid-1960s. From September to November 1965, the library was the first in Ontario to install the IBM 357 circulation system. With the use of punch card equipment, IBM cards placed in each book, and modified student cards, users could take out books without filling in print forms for each item (Lance, 1965, Sept. 17, p. 5). This took the circulation processing time down to 30 seconds per book! (Lance, 1965, September 24, p. 3). It was apparently a very noisy system. The advancement resolved a long-standing student complaint about lengthy and unreasonable withdrawal slips that, satirically, were meant to "determine if you have ever eaten jam sandwiches while reading or if you bend the corner of the page instead of using a bookmark" (Lance, 1958, Jan. 24, p. 2). The library was also the first in Ontario to publish its serials holdings lists by the "electronic data processing method" and was the first in Canada (September, 1966) to deliver library instruction via video recording (Lance, 1967, Oct. 27, p. 3; Annual report / University of Windsor, 1966/1967, p. 99-100).



IBM Circulation System Punch Card, 1965

Source: SWODA Images 2007

Another important and long-lasting innovation: the library was a founding member of a co-operative interlibrary loan service, along with other Ontario universities and the National Library. This service began in September 1967 and included an inter-university library transit system (IUTS), which meant that by using dedicated vehicles combined with Telex technology, requests for materials could now normally be filled in 24 hours or less. Initially, this service was for graduate students and faculty only (Lance, 1967, Sept. 22, p. 1). It was expanded to include undergraduate students in the early 1970s (Lance, 1971, Dec. 3, p. 2 and Lance, 1973, Oct. 19, p. 20). A related service: direct borrowing with Wayne State University for faculty, and some graduate students, had been in place since 1960/1961 (Annual report / Assumption University, 1960/1961, p. 58). Direct borrowing from other Ontario universities was introduced for faculty and graduate students in November, 1974 (Lance, 1974, Dec. 6, p. 1).

In March 1968, after the Faculty Association adopted a “Report on Professional Librarians”, President Leddy asked Dean J. Gordon Parr and a committee to review this report and offer him advice. They produced their own report “Report on the Status of Professional Librarians” which was presented in December 1968 and accepted by the President on January 29, 1969. “As a result, the professional librarians at this university are classified as academics and their relationship to the President is similar to that of the faculty. This report [has] aroused considerable interest throughout Canada...” (Annual report / University of Windsor, 1968/1969, p. 88).

As early as December 1963, planning for an expansion to the library was already underway (Lance, 1963, Dec. 18, p. 3). By 1965/1966, the Senate Library Committee was investigating the projected needs of the library in the future (Annual report / University of Windsor, 1965/1966, p. 84-85). By October 1967, the University Board of Governors had moved the library expansion up to its priority list (Lance, 1967, Oct. 27, p 3; Annual report / University of Windsor, 1966/1967, p. 93). The decision was based on factors such as increased enrollment, especially the large increase in graduate studies. It was predicted that the University would have more than 10,000 students by 1975 (Lance, 1969, Sept. 19, p. 1). There was rapid growth in the collection, as well as a need to accommodate the larger student population and their library use. In 1966-1967, the library had 329,450 visits, which was an increase of 24.2 percent as compared to 1965-1966 (Lance, 1967, Oct. 27, p 3). Space was in very short supply. There were also continued demands for longer opening hours.

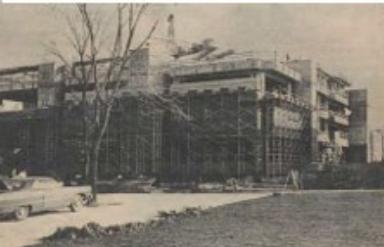
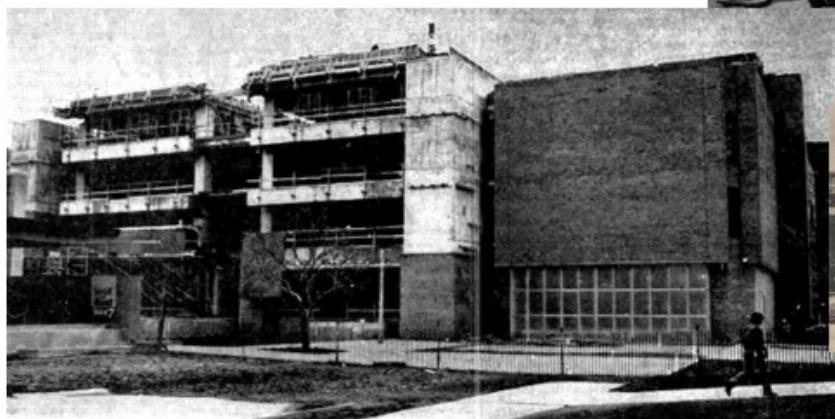
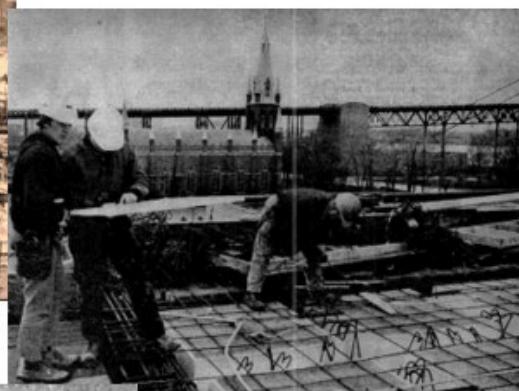
Roughly five million dollars was budgeted for the new library extension. 90% of this money would come from the provincial government and 10% would be raised from the community in a fundraising effort called Program 25 (25 buildings/additions in 5 years!) (WS, 1968, Dec. 31, p. F12-F14). Unfortunately for the University, the Ontario government changed its funding formula in late 1969 and long-term capital grants were severely cut back. This meant that most of the ambitious expansion plans were put on hold. Fortunately, the library addition was one of the few projects allowed to proceed (Lance, 1969, Nov. 28, p. 1). The chosen architects were Bland, Lemoyne, Shine, and Lacroix. They won the Canadian Architect Yearbook Award, 1970 for their design (AT, 1972, Spring, p. 9). The library also won a 1972 Design Canada Award of Excellence for its use of unit masonry. The contract for construction was awarded to Ascon Construction Limited for roughly \$5 million. There was, however, one major compromise. In order to obtain final government approval for the new building, the University was required to show evidence of general purpose use for the areas of the library that were not immediately needed for stacks or study spaces. As a result, the original plans were altered, and 134 temporary faculty offices were now to be installed at the north and south ends of the 2nd and 3rd floors (SWODA Publications: University of Windsor Library Extension Architectural Drawings 1969). The University also decided that the bookstore would move into the basement of the original library and part of the south end of the first floor would be renovated for temporary University administration offices (Annual report / University of Windsor 1970/1971, p. 144). It was not until 1992 that the bookstore moved to the new Odette Business building and the library regained the basement floor.

The plans for the new library extension included a four and a half storey addition with a two-level bridge that would join it to the existing university library. The pure and applied science collection would remain in the original building and the humanities and social science collection would move to the extension. As well as stacks, the extension was also meant to house approximately 150 full-time library staff, an outdoor terrace (4th floor), the previously mentioned 134 temporary faculty offices, and typing rooms on the 2nd and 3rd floors. The public catalogue and reference materials would be on the first floor, while shipping and receiving, the course reserve reading room, an exhibition gallery, an audio-visual centre, and a smoking lounge would occupy the ground level. There would be space for about 1,800 users and a total of 800,000 volumes in both buildings (WS, 1970, Dec. 31, p. 46). These numbers varied depending on the source. The building would be in the brutalist style, modular and square in construction, with few windows. This was considered by librarians of the time to be the most efficient design (Lance, 1969, Sept. 19, p. 1; Lance, 1969, Dec. 8, p. 1; Lance, 1970, Sept. 28, p. 4-5). It is interesting that J. Francis Leddy, the University President, was quoted as saying that the [library] expansion "would take care of us for five or six years anyway" (WS, 1971, July 10, p. 3).

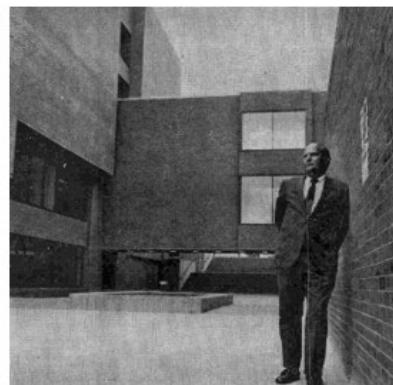


**University Library (now Leddy Library)
under construction, 1969-1971**

Source: SWODA Images 958, 995, 996,
3766, 3770, and 3771



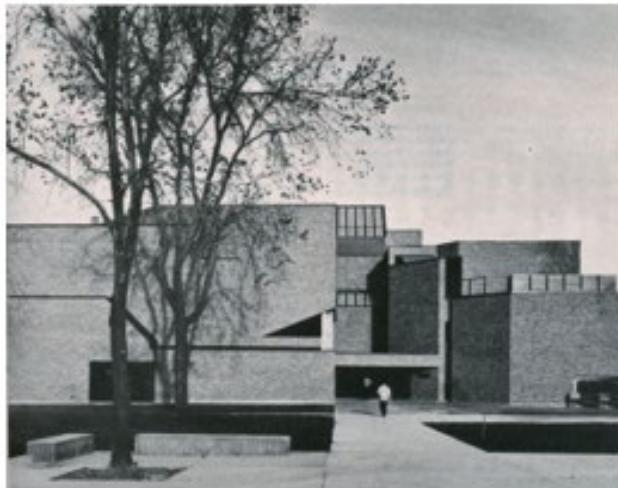
Excavation for the new library addition began in late 1969, and the addition was mostly completed by June, 1971. At this point, the alterations to the existing library (now called the west library building) were still underway. These included the extension to the 2nd floor, building out over the lobby and south end of the reading room, as well as the 2-storey bridge between the buildings. Renovations were also needed for the bookstore and the University administrative offices. Major structural reinforcement and ventilation upgrades were required. All construction was supposed to be completed by September 1971 (Lance, 1969, Dec. 8, p. 1 and Lance, 1970, Nov. 27, p. 3). However, the renovations to the West Library building took many months longer. These delays necessitated a double move in order to accommodate library users during the 1971/1972 school year. In June/July 1971, all library materials were transferred into the new building. Then in late Spring, early Summer 1972, the library collection was redistributed between the main and west library buildings (Annual report / University of Windsor, 1971/1972, p. 115).



University Library Exterior and Staff at Work 1971-1975

Source: SWODA Images 3847, 3772, 945, 925, 924, and 929

Worth noting is that by December 1968, the construction of the new Faculty of Law building was underway. Originally, it was supposed to be done by the end of March, 1970, but labour and subcontractor problems pushed the completion date for the whole project back to October 1970. Nevertheless, top priority was given to finishing the east side of the building by the original completion date. This is where a new Law Library was to occupy all three floors. During Summer 1970, the space crunch meant that the technical services department from the main university library was moved for one year into the ground floor and third floor of the new law library (Annual report / University of Windsor, 1970/1971, p. 143). All of this construction chaos and moving must have been very difficult for both staff and users alike!



Faculty of Law Building 1982; Technical Services of main library occupies part of 3rd floor 1970

Source: SWODA Images 3714 and 960

Although the faculty generally approved of the new library, the faculty offices on the north and south sides of the second and third floors were another story. They were disliked by everyone from the beginning. They had no windows, no heat or lighting controls, and no privacy. Dr. John Sullivan, head of the English department, called them “unreasonable”, “absurd”, and the result of “defective planning”. It was mainly junior faculty, sessional instructors, and graduate assistants that were relegated to these offices (Lance, 1971, June 7, p. 3). The library administration also disliked the offices, primarily because the occupants were taking library furniture into the offices and storing unsigned out library materials. William Dollar, the University Librarian, said that in one week, the cleaning staff removed 48 chairs from the offices (Lance, 1972, January 14, p. 1). Despite civil liberties concerns, the Senate passed regulations in January 1972 which allowed librarians, and security and maintenance personnel to conduct periodic searches and to seize furniture and retrieve library materials (Annual report, University of Windsor, 1971/1972, p. 115 and Lance, 1972, January 28, p. 3). In the Summer of 1976, the third floor offices were dismantled (Lance, 1976, October 26, p. 8). The second floor offices were likely dismantled a few years later.



University Library/Leddy Library Interior 1972-1992
Source: SWODA Images 956, 3890, 3869, 3896, 3872, 3759, 957, 3892 and 3870

In September 1976, Dr. John Francis Leddy, President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Windsor since July 1, 1964, announced that he would retire in April 1978 (Lance, 1976, September 24, p. 1 and p. 3). He actually retired at the end of August 1978. Dr. Leddy had succeeded the Reverend Eugene LeBel as Windsor's second president and oversaw the rapid expansion of the new University. In his honour, the University Library was renamed the Leddy Library in September 1977 (Windsor Star, 1977, May 19, p. 5). The Alumni Association sponsored Dr. Leddy's portrait which was presented to him in December 1977 and now hangs in the lobby of the library (Windsor Star, 1978, January 6, p. 1). His bust, by sculptor Joseph DeLauro, was completed in late Spring 1978 and also placed in the lobby (Windsor Star, 1978, June 8, p. 3). The bust was the target of many student pranks over the years. Upon his retirement, Dr. Leddy was given an office in room 204, 2nd floor, Leddy West. Here, he continued his research until shortly before his death in 1998.



Dr. John Francis Leddy was presented with his portrait in December 1977.
Source: SWODA 3767 and 3840



A new library anti-theft security system was installed for September 1977 at a cost of \$40,000 (Lance, 1977, September 16, p. 6). Volumes that were not desensitized and checked out properly would cause the exit gate to lock and an alarm to sound. This system was largely meant to replace the security guards who had been controversial from the time they were first hired in 1962. In the words of Al Mate, the Acting University Librarian, "one of the greatest benefits is [the system's] objectivity. Whereas before a guard might be reluctant to search a purse or conduct a full body search, the machine can scan the person passing through the field with no prejudice" (Lance, 1978, January 20, p. 7). There were likely also longer-term cost savings. Initially, all new incoming materials were tattle-taped, but it took a while to retrospectively sensitize the entire library collection. Students soon realized this, as well as other ways to evade the new system. They conducted "tests" to "prove that library security [was] a myth" and published an article with photographic evidence of their misdeeds (Lance, 1978, January 27, p. 1 and p. 8).



Raid proves library not secure

The Library security system is inadequate and needs to be strengthened.

This is the meaningful conclusion following a successful raid in which Lance Writers managed to steal about 30 books and other materials.

The theft of the books and other materials was a complete set of circularians.

The other pieces were the United States top 4000 discography, a Latin lexicon, Webster's New International Dictionary, a book about Major Waller Garrison, and two volumes on novels and editing.

The robbers were caught outside the building, and the robbers got bound and piled down on a bench in the library basement.

Library officials were then summoned.

The two guerrillas entered the library about 1:30 Tuesday afternoon, and in the same 90 minutes, they had taken all the books they wanted.

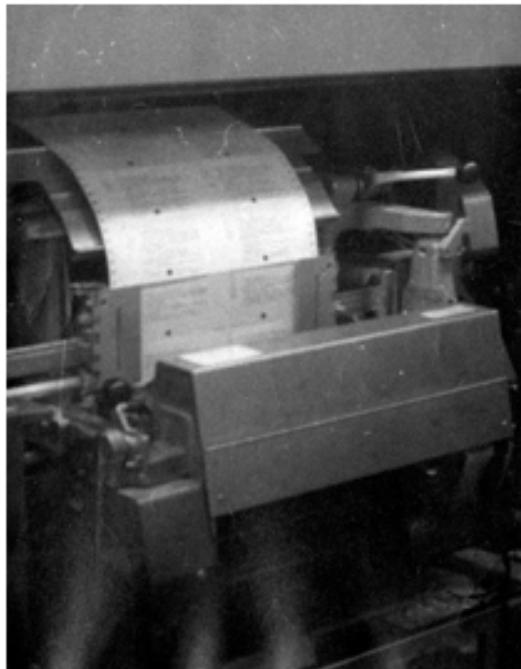
The final count was about 30 circulating books, periodicals, and reference books.

The collection of materials was a complete set of circularians.

The other pieces were the United States top 4000 discography, a Latin lexicon, Webster's New International Dictionary, a book about Major Waller Garrison, and two volumes on novels and editing.

The robbers were caught outside the building, and the robbers got bound and piled down on a bench in the library basement.

Library officials were then summoned.



Catalogue Card Printer 1975
Source: SWODA Images 926

"Tests conducted this week prove library security is a myth."

Source: Lance, 1978, January 27, p. 1 and p. 8

Library automation continued in the 1970s on many fronts. In the early 1970s, computer terminals were installed in the Technical Services Division. These allowed staff to create a database of library holdings. Information was then sent to the University Computer Centre and used to create sets of catalogue cards ready for filing. It was also the time that Library of Congress MARC records on tape became available and began to be used in the bibliographic searching and cataloguing processes (Annual report / University of Windsor 1971/1972, p. 114).

A separate government documents section was established on the fourth floor in late Spring 1972. The University had been a selective depository library for federal Canadian documents since 1954 and a full depository library for Ontario documents at least back to 1972 (and probably earlier). For the first time, the government documents collection could be consolidated and housed appropriately. The new staff work area included the acquisitions, cataloguing, and reference staff under Mr. Frank Winter, the first full-time government documents librarian (Annual report / University of Windsor, 1971/1972, p. 118). In July 1976, the government documents department adopted the CODOC cataloguing/classification scheme. CODOC was an Ontario-wide, shared computer system that was designed for government publications, organized materials by creator rather than by subject, and provided simplified descriptive cataloguing for each item. It was meant to speed up processing and make materials available in a more timely fashion. It also allowed for easier resource sharing among universities. At this point, users still identified government documents through the various card catalogues and CODOC print-outs (Lance, 1978, April 7, p. 8).



Government Documents Department 1972
SWODA Images 3886



Librarian, Graham Staffen, conducting an
online database search, 1978
Source: SWODA 3768

In May 1978, the Library introduced mediated online database searching via a telephone connected computer terminal installed in the reference department. Four information search services, ORBIT, DIALOG, Q/L, and CANOLE allowed online access to many print indexes such as Engineering Index and Psychological Abstracts, as well as newer and more specialized online-only databases. The average cost to users was about \$20 per search but meant that "research that used to take months [could] now be done in minutes" (Lance, 1978, October 20, p. 2 and Lance, 1979, October 5, p. 3).



Leddy Library Gallery, Main Building, Basement, 1972

SWODA Images 3887 and 3888

In Autumn 1979, the decision was made to convert the Leddy Library Gallery, located in room G100, basement, main building, into the University Archives and Special Collections. The Gallery had been used by the fine arts department since the library's opening to exhibit students, faculty, and outside artists' work. The decision by a University Archives Committee came about because the archival collections and rare books had outgrown their rooms on the third floor of the West building and were being stored in less than ideal conditions. There was a desire to expand the local Windsor/Essex County archival collection and the potential of enticing people such as Conrad Black to donate Maurice Duplessis' memoirs (Lance, 1979, October 12, p. 2 and Lance, 1979, November 23, p. 7). The renovations, overseen by librarian Jerry Malone, began in 1980.

During the 1970s, the numbers of students continued to grow. From a total of 10,764 students in 1969/1970 (UWGC, 1970/1971, p. A47) the number grew to 15,510 in 1979/1980 (UWGC, 1980/1982, p. A3). The major area of growth was in part-time enrollment. The library collection also continued to increase from 472,000 volumes in 1970 (UWGC, 1971/1972, p. A49) to 1,175,000 bound volumes in 1980 (UWGC, 1980/1982, p. A3). The rate of growth throughout this decade was approximately 60,000 volumes per year. However, by the late 1970s, University budgets became tighter and support for the library declined. In 1978/1979, book budgets fell and 10% of the library's journal subscriptions were cancelled. The number of staff dropped from 122 in 1977/1978 to 92 in 1979/1980 (Lance, 1979, February 2, p. 1; Lance, 1980, February 1, p. 3)

In the Summer of 1980, Al Mate, the University Librarian submitted a report to Senate that described the current state of the Leddy Library and made proposals for the future (Lance 1980, November 28, p. 7; Lance, 1981, January 23, p. 1). There was a desire to bring the library collection budget entirely under the control of the library administration. At this point, although the serials were the responsibility of the library, the monographs budget was still controlled by individual faculties and departments. This caused many problems. Another concern: in the 1960s, the library had been a leader in the implementation of new technologies but by 1980, the library had fallen behind (Lance, 1980, February 1, p. 3). Although there was a task force looking into library automation, funding had not been made available to invest in the more integrated library systems that were coming onto the market (Lance, 1980, November 28, p. 7).

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